

# RPC BROKER TECHNICAL MANUAL

Version 1.1; Patch XWB\*1.1\*40
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Department of Veterans Affairs
VistA Health Systems Design & Development (HSD&D)
Infrastructure and Security Services (ISS)

# **Revision History**

## **Documentation Revisions**

The following table displays the revision history for this document. Revisions to the documentation are based on patches and new versions released to the field.

Date	Revision	Description	Author(s)
09/97	1.0	Initial RPC Broker Version 1.1 software release.	Thom Blom and Joel Ivey, Oakland OIFO
04/08/02	2.0	Revised Version for RPC Broker Patch XWB*1.1*13.	Thom Blom and Joel Ivey, Oakland OIFO
05/08/02	3.0	Revised Version for RPC Broker Patch XWB*1.1*26.	Thom Blom and Joel Ivey, Oakland OIFO
02/28/05	4.0	Revised Version for RPC Broker Patches XWB*1.1*35 and 40.	Thom Blom and Joel Ivey, Oakland OIFO
		Also, reviewed document and edited for the "Data Scrubbing" and the "PDF 508 Compliance" projects.	
		Data Scrubbing—Changed all patient/user TEST data to conform to HSD&D standards and conventions as indicated below:	
		The first three digits (prefix) of any Social Security Numbers (SSN) start with "000" or "666."	
		Patient or user names are formatted as follows:     NHEPATIENT,[N] or NHEUSER,[N] respectively, where the N is a number written out and incremented with each new entry (e.g., NHEPATIENT, ONE, NHEPATIENT, TWO, etc.).	
		<ul> <li>Other personal demographic- related data (e.g., addresses, phones, IP addresses, etc.) were also changed to be generic.</li> </ul>	
		PDF 508 Compliance—The final PDF document was recreated and now supports the minimum requirements to be 508 compliant (i.e., accessibility tags, language selection, alternate text for all images/icons, fully functional Web links, successfully passed Adobe Acrobat Quick Check).	

Table i: Documentation revision history

## **Patch Revisions**

For the current patch history related to this software, please refer to the Patch Module on FORUM.

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# Acknowledgements

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- ISS Program and Project Manager—Larry Weldon
- Centralized Planner Support Team (CPST)—Laura Rowland
- Developers—Alan Chan, Wally Fort, Joel Ivey (lead), and Raul Mendoza
- Functional Analysts—Lauren Hardeen and Lauren Gorgoglione
- Software Quality Assurance (SQA)—Matt Alderman
- Technical Writer—Thom Blom

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• Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS) GUI—Development Team

Acknowledgements

## Orientation

## How to Use this Manual

Throughout this manual, advice and instructions are offered regarding the use of the RPC Broker V. 1.1 and the functionality it provides for Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA).

There are no special legal requirements involved in the use of the RPC Broker.

This manual uses several methods to highlight different aspects of the material:

• Various symbols are used throughout the documentation to alert the reader to special information. The following table gives a description of each of these symbols:

Symbol	Description
<u>(1)</u>	Used to inform the reader of general information including references to additional reading material
A	Used to caution the reader to take special notice of critical information

Table ii: Documentation symbol descriptions

- Descriptive text is presented in a proportional font (as represented by this font).
- Conventions for displaying TEST data in this document are as follows:
  - ➤ The first three digits (prefix) of any Social Security Numbers (SSN) will begin with either "000" or "666."
  - Patient and user names will be formatted as follows: [Application Name]PATIENT,[N] and [Application Name]USER,[N] respectively, where "Application Name" is defined in the Approved Application Abbreviations document and "N" represents the first name as a number spelled out and incremented with each new entry. For example, in Kernel (KRN) test patient and user names would be documented as follows: KRNPATIENT,ONE; KRNPATIENT,TWO; KRNPATIENT,THREE; etc.
- Sample HL7 messages, "snapshots" of computer online displays (i.e., roll-and-scroll screen captures/dialogues) and computer source code, if any, are shown in a *non*-proportional font and enclosed within a box.

Also included are Graphical User Interface (GUI) Microsoft Windows images (i.e., dialogues or forms).

- ➤ User's responses to online prompts will be boldface.
- The "**Enter**" found within these snapshots indicate that the user should press the Enter key on their keyboard. Other special keys are represented within <> angle brackets. For example, pressing the PF1 key can be represented as pressing **PF1**.

Author's comments, if any, are displayed in italics or as "callout" boxes.



Callout boxes refer to labels or descriptions usually enclosed within a box, which point to specific areas of a displayed image.

- All uppercase is reserved for the representation of M code, variable names, or the formal name of options, field and file names, and security keys (e.g., the XUPROGMODE key).
- Object Pascal code uses a combination of upper- and lowercase characters. All Object Pascal reserved words are in boldface type.

## **Commonly Used Terms**

The following is a list of terms and their descriptions that you may find helpful while reading the RPC Broker documentation:

Term	Description
Client	A single term used interchangeably to refer to a user, the workstation (i.e., PC), and the portion of the program that runs on the workstation.
Component	A software object that contains data and code. A component may or may not be visible.  For a more detailed description, please refer to the
	Borland Delphi for Windows User Guide.
GUI	The Graphical User Interface application that is developed for the client workstation.
Host	The term Host is used interchangeably with the term Server.
Server	The computer where the data and the RPC Broker remote procedure calls (RPCs) reside.

Table iii: Commonly used RPC Broker terms



Please refer to the "Glossary" for additional terms and definitions.

## **How to Obtain Technical Information Online**

Exported file, routine, and global documentation can be generated through the use of Kernel, MailMan, and VA FileMan utilities.



Methods of obtaining specific technical information online will be indicated where applicable under the appropriate topic.

Please refer to the RPC Broker Technical Manual for further information.

#### **Help at Prompts**

VistA software provides online help and commonly used system default prompts. Users are encouraged to enter question marks at any response prompt. At the end of the help display, you are immediately returned to the point from which you started. This is an easy way to learn about any aspect of VistA software.

To retrieve online documentation in the form of Help in any VistA character-based product:

- Enter a single question mark ("?") at a field/prompt to obtain a brief description. If a field is a pointer, entering one question mark ("?") displays the HELP PROMPT field contents and a list of choices, if the list is short. If the list is long, the user will be asked if the entire list should be displayed. A YES response will invoke the display. The display can be given a starting point by prefacing the starting point with an up-arrow ("^") as a response. For example, ^M would start an alphabetic listing at the letter M instead of the letter A while ^127 would start any listing at the 127th entry.
- Enter two question marks ("??") at a field/prompt for a more detailed description. Also, if a field is a pointer, entering two question marks displays the HELP PROMPT field contents and the list of choices.
- Enter three question marks ("???") at a field/prompt to invoke any additional Help text stored in Help Frames.

#### **Obtaining Data Dictionary Listings**

Technical information about files and the fields in files is stored in data dictionaries. You can use the List File Attributes option on the Data Dictionary Utilities submenu in VA FileMan to print formatted data dictionaries.



For details about obtaining data dictionaries and about the formats available, please refer to the "List File Attributes" chapter in the "File Management" section of the *VA FileMan Advanced User Manual*.

## **Assumptions About the Reader**

This manual is written with the assumption that the reader is familiar with the following:

- VistA computing environment:
  - > Kernel
  - VA FileMan data structures and terminology
- Microsoft Windows environment
- M programming language
- Object Pascal programming language.
- Borland Delphi Integrated Development Environment (IDE)

It provides an overall explanation of configuring RPC Broker and the functionality contained in RPC Broker Version 1.1. However, no attempt is made to explain how the overall VistA programming system is integrated and maintained. Such methods and procedures are documented elsewhere. We suggest you look at the various VA home pages on the World Wide Web for a general orientation to VistA. For example, go to the Health Systems Design & Development (HSD&D) Home Page at the following Web address:

http://vista.med.va.gov/

#### **Reference Materials**

Readers who wish to learn more about the RPC Broker should consult the following:

- RPC Broker Release Notes
- RPC Broker Installation Guide
- RPC Broker Systems Manual
- RPC Broker Technical Manual (this manual)
- RPC Broker Getting Started with the Broker Development Kit (BDK)
- RPC Broker Home Page at the following Web address:

http://vista.med.va.gov/broker/index.asp

This site provides announcements, additional information (e.g., Frequently Asked Questions [FAQs], advisories), documentation links, archives of older documentation and software downloads.

VistA documentation is made available online in Microsoft Word format and in Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF). The PDF documents *must* be read using the Adobe Acrobat Reader (i.e., ACROREAD.EXE), which is freely distributed by Adobe Systems Incorporated at the following web address:

http://www.adobe.com/



For more information on the use of the Adobe Acrobat Reader, please refer to the *Adobe Acrobat Quick Guide* at the following web address:

http://vista.med.va.gov/iss/acrobat/index.asp

VistA documentation can be downloaded from the Health Systems Design and Development (HSD&D) VistA Documentation Library (VDL) Web site:

http://www.va.gov/vdl/

VistA documentation and software can also be downloaded from the Enterprise VistA Support (EVS) anonymous directories:

Albany OIFO <u>ftp.fo-albany.med.va.gov</u>
 Hines OIFO <u>ftp.fo-hines.med.va.gov</u>

• Salt Lake City OIFO ftp.fo-slc.med.va.gov

Preferred Method download.vista.med.va.gov

This method transmits the files from the first available FTP server.



DISCLAIMER: The appearance of external hyperlink references in this manual does *not* constitute endorsement by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) of this Web site or the information, products, or services contained therein. The VA does *not* exercise any editorial control over the information you may find at these locations. Such links are provided and are consistent with the stated purpose of this VA Intranet Service.

Orientation

## 1. Introduction

The RPC Broker Technical Manual" provides descriptive information and instructions on the use of the Remote Procedure Call (RPC) Broker (also referred to as "Broker") software within the VA's Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) environment. This document is intended for systems managers—Information Resource Management (IRM) personnel who are responsible for implementing and maintaining this software, application programmers, and developers. It acquaints system managers with the utilities, software structure, and functionality of the RPC Broker system modules, including information about the routines and files that comprise this software. It also has information about the software's structure and recommendations regarding its efficient use (e.g., routine mapping). Additional information on installation, security, management features, and other requirements is also included.

#### **Product Overview**

The RPC Broker is considered to be part of the infrastructure of VistA. It establishes a common and consistent foundation for communication between clients and VistA M Servers.

The RPC Broker is a bridge connecting the client application front-end on the workstation (e.g., Delphi GUI applications) to the M-based data and business rules on the server. It links one part of a program running on a workstation to its counterpart on the server. The client and the server can be, and most often are, written in different computer languages. Therefore, the RPC Broker bridges the gap between the traditionally proprietary VistA and COTS/HOST products.

#### The RPC Broker includes:

- A common communications driver for the M server interface that handles the device-specific characteristics of the supported communications protocol.
- An interface component on the M server, separate from the communications driver, that interprets client messages, executes the required code, and eventually returns data to the communications driver.
- A common file on the M server that all applications use to store the information about the queries to which they respond (i.e., REMOTE PROCEDURE file [#8994]).
- The Client Agent application that runs on client workstations, supporting single signon.
- The TRPCBroker component for Delphi, enabling development of client applications that can communicate via the RPC Broker.
- A dynamic link library (DLL) that provides access to RPC Broker functionality for development environments other than Delphi.

Introduction

## 2. Implementation and Maintenance

The "RPC Broker Installation Guide" provides detailed information regarding the installation of the RPC Broker. It also contains many requirements and recommendation regarding how the Broker should be configured. Be sure to read the Installation Guide before attempting to install the RPC Broker.

#### **Site Parameters**

The following two areas of the Broker require site parameter review and configuration:

Functional Area	Documentation Reference
Broker Listeners	See the "RPC Broker Site Parameters File" section in the RPC Broker Systems Manual.
Single Signon	See the "Integrated Auto Signon For Multiple Users" section in the RPC Broker Systems Manual.

Table 2-1: RPC Broker functionality requiring site parameter review

## **Performance and Scalability**

Current performance statistics are limited. However, results indicate that the processing time and resources consumed by the Broker itself are minimal. The RPC Broker doesn't introduce any additional overhead to the messages sent between the client and the server.

The RPC Broker listener does not tend to get overloaded, because it jobs off incoming requests to another process and then keeps listening for another request. This action is only limited by the number of partitions the M configuration supports.

Performance should instead be measured at the application level to determine the amount of resources consumed by VistA client/server applications that use the Broker. Performance and scalability, from a site's point of view, have been impacted by the load introduced by application executing on the host system, as opposed to the load introduced by the RPC Broker itself.

Implementation and Maintenance

## 3. Files

#### **VistA M Server Files**

The RPC Broker consists of a single global with two files. This chapter describes the RPC Broker files including the file number, file name, global location, and description of the files.

File #	File Name	Global Location
8994	REMOTE PROCEDURE	^XWB(8994,
8994.1	RPC BROKER SITE PARAMETERS	^XWB(8994.1,

Table 3-1: RPC Broker files and globals

#### **REMOTE PROCEDURE File (#8994)**

This file is used as a repository of server-based procedures (i.e., remote procedure calls [RPCs]) in the context of the Client/Server architecture. All RPCs used by any site-specific client/server application software using the RPC Broker interface must be registered and stored in this file. Applications running on client workstations can invoke (call) the RPCs in this file to be executed by the server and the results are returned to the client application. Each RPC is associated with an entry point (i.e., ROUTINE with optional TAG).



The RPC subfield (#19.05) of the OPTION file (#19) points to the RPC field (#.01) of the REMOTE PROCEDURE file (#8994).

Data is *not* distributed with this file. RPCs are distributed and installed as separate components during the installation of the RPC Broker, however.

## RPC BROKER SITE PARAMETERS file (#8994.1)

Site managers can use this file to configure and adjust many characteristics of an RPC Broker installation at a site.

Data is *not* distributed with this file.

#### **Client Files**

#### **End-User Workstation**

..\Program Files\VISTA\Broker

Clagent.exe

Clagent.hlp

RPCTest.exe

RPCTest.hlp

..\WINDOWS\system32 Bapi32.dll

#### **Programmer Workstation**

Files installed vary depending on BDK patch level, installation choices, and Delphi version. In general, files are placed in the following directories:

- ..\Program Files\VISTA\BDK32\D2 (no longer supported)
- ..\Program Files\VISTA\BDK32\D3 (no longer supported)
- ..\Program Files\VISTA\BDK32\D4 (no longer supported)
- ..\Program Files\VISTA\BDK32\D5
- ..\Program Files\VISTA\BDK32\D6
- ..\Program Files\VISTA\BDK32\D7
- ..\Program Files\VISTA\BDK32\Help
- ..\Program Files\VISTA\BDK32\Samples\RPCBroker\BrokerEx
- ..\Program Files\VISTA\BDK32\Samples\RPCBroker\SilentSignOn
- ..\Program Files\VISTA\BDK32\Samples\SharedRPCBroker\BrokerEx
- ..\Program Files\VISTA\BDK32\Samples\SharedRPCBroker\SilentSignOn
- $.. \ | Program\ Files \ | VISTA \ | BDK32 \ | Shared Broker Debugger$
- ..\Program Files\VISTA\BDK32\Source

Depending on the version(s) of Delphi you are running:

- ..\Program Files\Borland\Delphi5\Projects\Bpl\XWB\_R50.bpl
- ..\Program Files\Borland\Delphi7\Projects\Bpl\XWB\_R70.bpl



On Programmer Workstations, if you are recompiling the BDK32, you will probably want to remove any .bpl files from the System32 directory. These files are in the (\$Delphi)\Projects\Bpl directory in D5, D6, and D7 (and the [\$Delphi]\Bin and [\$Delphi]\Lib directory in D4. The files in the System32 directory are usually earlier in the path, and therefore, interfere with newly compiled software.

# 4. Global Translation, Journaling, and Protection

## **Translation**

Translation is recommended for the sole RPC Broker global (i.e., ^XWB global). The ^XWB global has the potential to be read-intensive as more and more remote procedures are added to it in the future.

#### For DSM and Caché Systems

It is best to translate the global to a volume set other than ROU. In order for translation to take effect on DSM and Caché systems, DSM and Caché must be rebooted.



Cookbook recommendations should also be consulted for suggestions regarding journaling, translation, and replication; the information here may not apply.

## **Journaling**

Journaling of this global is not required, since the ^XWB global, for the most part is static (except during the addition of new remote procedures).

#### **Protection**

The following global protection should be set:

Global	Protection	
Name	DSM for OpenVMS	Caché
^XWB	System: RWD	Owner: RWD
	World: RW	Group: N
	Group: RW	World: N
	User: RW	Network: RWD

**Table 4-1: RPC Broker Global Information** 

Global Translation, Journaling, and Protection

# 5. Routines

This chapter contains a list of the routines exported with the RPC Broker (and includes routines exported with the M2M Broker software, entries are shaded in the table). A brief description of the routines is provided.

Routine	Description
XWB2HL7	This routine contains various functions and procedures that are used by the Broker for Remote Data Views (RDV) via HL7.
XWB2HL7A	This routine contains various functions and procedures that are used by the Broker for Remote Data Views (RDV) via HL7.
XWB2HL7B	This routine contains various functions and procedures that are used by the Broker for Remote Data Views (RDV) via HL7.
XWB2HL7C	This routine contains various functions and procedures that are used by the Broker for Remote Data Views (RDV) via HL7.
XWB2HL7T	This routine contains various functions and procedures that are used by the Broker for Remote Data Views (RDV).
XWBBRK	This routine contains calls that are designed to parse the various attributes of the Broker messages. All of this information is used internally. In the case of large arrays sent by the client, the function BREAD is used to read in the variable length subscripts and values.
XWBBRK2	This routine is a continuation of XWBBRK. The main entry point (i.e., CAPI) actually calls the application RPC.
XWBBRK3	This routine is a continuation of XWBBRK. The main entry point (i.e., CAPI) actually calls the application RPC.
XWBBRK4	This routine is a continuation of XWBBRK. The main entry point (i.e., CAPI) actually calls the application RPC.
XWBCAGNT	Server code for RPC Broker client agent application.
XWBDLOG	Debug Logging for Broker
XWBDRPC	This routine contains various functions and procedures that are used for deferred RPCs by the Broker for Remote Data Views (RDV).
XWBESSO	This routine gets a user's specifications. This is a special routine used by the CAPRI-specific RPCBroker. It is <i>not</i> intended for distribution beyond the Host site for the DVBA Tiger Team.
XWBEXMPL	This routine is used to support the Broker Example application. The Broker Example application is used to test the RPC Broker connectivity, actions, and RPCs. It is distributed with the Broker.
XWBFM	This routine contains entry points used to interface to the VA FileMan database server.
XWBLIB	This routine contains various functions and procedures used by the Broker. It is best described as a library or depository.
XWBLIB1	New message send utilities.
XWBM2MC	M2M Broker Client APIs.
XWBM2MS	M2M Broker Server.

Routine	Description
XWBM2MT	M2M Broker Example.
XWBPRS	RPC Broker Message Parser.
XWBPRS2	RPC Broker Message Parser.
XWBRL	M2M Broker Link Methods.
XWBRM	M2M Broker Server Request Manager.
XWBRMX	M2M Broker Server Request Manager.
XWBRPC	M2M Broker Server Message Request Handler (MRH).
XWBRPCC	M2M Broker Client Utilities.
XWBRW	Read/Write for Broker TCP.
XWBSEC	This routine contains various functions and procedures used by the Broker. Calls in this routine are used for client/server security.
XWBTCP	This routine contains functions and procedures used to control the Broker TCP/IP Listener process. Systems personnel can use calls in this routine to start, stop, and debug the Broker process.
XWBTCPC	This job is started for each Broker request. The Listener process (i.e., XWBTCPL) will receive a connection request from a client and then dispatch, using the M JOB command, XWBTCPC to manage the rest of the interaction.
XWBTCPL	This is the Broker Listener process. IRM starts this job. It remains running on a system listening for TCP/IP connection requests. Once a request is received, this routine will start a separate process to manage the rest of the connection, then returns to "listening" for a new request.
XWBTCPM	TCP/IP Process Handler.
XWBTCPM1	Support for XWBTCPM.
XWBTCPM2	Test WEB Service.
XWBUTL	M2M Programmer Utilities.
XWBVL	M2M Broker Server Link Utility.
XWBVLC	M2M Broker Client.
XWBVLL	M2M Broker Listener.
XWBZ1	This routine supports the RPC Broker V. 1.0 Echo application, which was used to test RPC Broker connectivity, actions, and APIs. Note: The Echo client application is not distributed in V. 1.1 of the RPC Broker; it is replaced by the RPCTest application.

Table 5-1: RPC Broker routine list

# **Routine Mapping**

RPC Broker routines are not required to be mapped to any account.

## 6. Exported Options

The following options are exported with the RPC Broker:

Name	Menu Text	Туре
XWB BROKER EXAMPLE	RPC BROKER PROGRAMMING EXAMPLE	Broker (Client/Server)
XWB LISTENER STARTER	Start All RPC Broker Listeners	Run Routine
XWB RPC TEST	RPC	Broker (Client/Server)

Table 6-1: RPC Broker exported options

Client/server applications are a new type of option (i.e., Type "B", Broker client/server options) in the OPTION file (#19). The user must have the client/server application option assigned to them as with any other assigned option in VistA. The client/server application will only run for those users who are allowed to activate it.



The client/server application options will not be displayed in the user's menu tree.

#### XWB BROKER EXAMPLE

This option supports the Broker Example demonstration program provided in the Broker Development Kit (BDK). Developers should assign this option to themselves, if they want to try out the Broker Example application. For programmers who have the XUPROGMODE security key, however, assigning this option to themselves is not necessary.

#### XWB LISTENER STARTER

Modified by patch XWB\*1.1\*9.



For information on this option, please refer to the RPC Broker Systems Manual.

#### XWB RPC TEST

It is recommended that the XWB RPC TEST option be given to users running Broker-based VistA client/server applications. The RPCTEST.EXE program on the client workstation runs the RPC Broker Diagnostic Program. This tool can be used to verify and test the Broker client/server connection and signon process. It displays information about the client and the server and can be a useful debugging tool for IRM.

To enable remote troubleshooting by IRM for all users, you can put this option on the Common menu (i.e., System Command Options menu [XUCOMMAND]). This enables any user to run the RPCTEST.EXE program on their workstation at your request.

## **Exported RPCs**

The RPC Broker distributes the following remote procedure calls (RPCs):

XWB ARE RPCS AVAILABLE XWB EXAMPLE GET LIST

XWB CREATE CONTEXT XWB EXAMPLE SORT NUMBERS

XWB DEFERRED CLEAR XWB EXAMPLE WPTEXT XWB DEFERRED CLEAR ALL XWB GET BROKER INFO

XWB DEFERRED GETDATA XWB GET VARIABLE VALUE

XWB DEFERRED RPC XWB FILE LIST

XWB DEFERRED STATUS XWB FILENAME CHECK

XWB DIRECT RPC XWB IM HERE

XWB EGCHO BIG LIST XWB IS RPC AVAILABLE XWB EGCHO LIST XWB REMOTE CLEAR XWB EGCHO MEMO XWB REMOTE GETDATA

XWB EGCHO SORT LIST XWB REMOTE RPC

XWB EGCHO STRING XWB REMOTE STATUS CHECK

XWB EXAMPLE ECHO STRING XWB RPC LIST

# 7. Archiving and Purging

## **Archiving**

There are no software-specific archiving procedures or recommendations for the RPC Broker ^XWB global or the REMOTE PROCEDURE (#8994) and RPC BROKER SITE PARAMETERS (#8994.1) files.

## **Purging**

There are no software-specific purging procedures or recommendations for the RPC Broker ^XWB global or the REMOTE PROCEDURE (#8994) and RPC BROKER SITE PARAMETERS (#8994.1) files.

Archiving and Purging

# 8. Callable Routines

The RPC Broker does *not* provide any callable M routines. However, other programming interfaces are provided (e.g., Delphi components, DLL, Pascal functions, and RPCs).



For information on these other programming interfaces, please refer to the "External Interfaces" chapter in this manual.

#### Callable Routines

## 9. External Interfaces

The following external interfaces to RPC Broker functionality are provided:

## **RPC Broker Components**

Version 1.1 of the RPC Broker (fully patched) provides programmers with the capability to develop new VistA client/server software using the following RPC Broker Delphi components in the 32-bit environment (listed alphabetically):

- TCCOWRPCBroker
- TRPCBroker (original component)
- TSharedBroker
- TSharedRPCBroker
- TXWBRichEdit



These RPC Broker components wrap the functionality of the Broker resulting in a more modularized and orderly interface. Those components derived from the original TRPCBroker component, inherit the TRPCBroker properties and methods.

These RPC Broker components (with the exception of TXWBRichEdit) provide all functionality needed for client applications to communicate with VistA M servers via the RPC Broker. All of these components are compatible with Borland Delphi V. 5.0 and greater.



Delphi V.2.0, 3.0, and 4.0 are no longer supported. Delphi V.2.0 was supported prior to patch XWB\*1.1\*4, Delphi V. 3.0 was supported prior to XWB\*1.1\*13, and Delphi V. 4.0 was supported prior to XWB\*1.1\*40.



This statement defines the extent of support relative to use of Delphi. The Office of Information (OI) will support the Broker Development Kit (BDK) running in the currently offered version of Delphi and the immediately previous version of Delphi. This level of support became effective 06/12/2000.

Sites may continue to use outdated versions of the RPC Broker Development Kit but do so with the understanding that support will not be available and that continued use of outdated versions will not afford features that may be essential to effective client/server operations in the VistA environment. An archive of old (no longer supported) Broker Development Kits will be maintained at:

http://vista.med.va.gov/broker/archive.asp



For more information on the Broker components, please refer to the *RPC Broker Getting Started* with the Broker Development Kit (BDK) manual and RPC Broker Developer's Guide (BROKER.HLP, online help in the BDK).

## **RPC Broker Dynamic Link Library (DLL)**

The RPC Broker DLL (BAPI32.DLL) provides access to RPC Broker functionality for development environments other than Delphi.

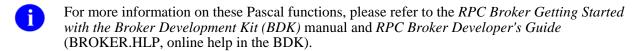


For more information on the RPC Broker DLL, please refer to the *RPC Broker Getting Started* with the Broker Development Kit (BDK) manual and RPC Broker Developer's Guide (BROKER.HLP, online help in the BDK).

#### **Pascal Functions**

The following Pascal functions are provided by the TRPCBroker component:

- GetServerInfo function
- Splash Screen functions: SplashOpen and SplashClose
- Piece function
- Translate function
- Encryption functions: Decrypt and Encrypt



## **RPC Broker Remote Procedures**

The following RPC is provided for use by developers:

- XWB GET VARIABLE VALUE
- For more information, please refer to the *RPC Broker Getting Started with the Broker Development Kit (BDK)* manual and *RPC Broker Developer's Guide* (BROKER.HLP, online help in the BDK).

## 10. External Relations

## **Relationship to Other Software**

The RPC Broker software has been developed to aid the VistA development community and Information Resources Management (IRM) and is considered to be part of the infrastructure of VistA. Other infrastructure products include VA FileMan, Kernel, and MailMan. The RPC Broker will be used by all client applications written as part of VistA. The RPC Broker fully integrates with VA FileMan V. 22.0 and Kernel V. 8.0.

The absence of RPC Broker software on an M server will disable the functioning of any client application that depends on the RPC Broker to communicate with the VistA M Server.

It is possible that the use of RPCs will also be extended to *non*-client applications. In this case, the REMOTE PROCEDURE file (#8994) must be present for those applications to function correctly.

## Relationship with Kernel and VA FileMan

Before installing the RPC Broker, Kernel V. 8.0, Kernel Toolkit V. 7.3, and VA FileMan V. 22.0 must be in place and fully patched.

## **Relationships with Operating Systems**

On the client side, it was decided that the 32-bit Microsoft Windows environment would be the supported platform. Thus, the client portions of the RPC Broker are compatible with Microsoft Windows 95 or higher, and Microsoft Windows NT 3.5 or higher.

On the server side, the RPC Broker supports the following ANSI M environments:

- Digital Standard M (DSM) V6.3-031 for OpenVMS AXP or greater
- InterSystems Caché for NT and OpenVMS

## **DBA** Approvals and Integration Agreements (IAS)

#### To obtain the current list of DBIAs that the RPC Broker is a custodian of:

- 1. Sign on to the Forum system (forum.va.gov).
- 2. Go to the DBA menu.
- 3. Select the Integration Agreements menu.
- 4. Select the Custodial Package menu.
- 5. Choose the ACTIVE by Custodial Package option.
- 6. When this option prompts you for a package, enter RPC BROKER.
- 7. All current DBIAs for which the RPC Broker package is custodian are listed.

#### To obtain detailed information on a specific integration agreement:

- 1. Sign on to the Forum system (forum.va.gov).
- 2. Go to the DBA menu.
- 3. Select the Integration Agreements menu.
- 4. Select the Inquire option.
- 5. When prompted for "INTEGRATION REFERENCES", enter the integration agreement number of the DBIA you would like to display.
- 6. The option then lists the full text of the DBIA you requested.

#### To obtain the current list of DBIAs that the RPC Broker is a subscriber to:

- 1. Sign on to the Forum system (forum.va.gov).
- 2. Go to the DBA menu.
- 3. Select the Integration Agreements menu.
- 4. Select the Subscriber Package menu.
- 5. Choose the Print ACTIVE by Subscribing Package option.
- 6. When prompted "START WITH SUBSCRIBING PACKAGE", enter RPC BROKER (in uppercase). When prompted "GO TO SUBSCRIBING PACKAGE", enter RPC BROKER (in uppercase).
- 7. All current DBIAs to which the RPC Broker package is a subscriber are listed.

## 11. Internal Relations

No options in the RPC Broker product assume that the entry/exit logic of another option has already occurred.

**Internal Relations** 

## 12. Software-wide Variables

The RPC Broker does not create any software-wide variables that have received Programming Standards and Conventions Committee (SACC) exemptions.

Software-wide Variables

## 13. Software Product Security

### **Security Management**

There are no special legal requirements involved in the use of the RPC Broker product.

### **Mail Groups and Alerts**

There are no mail groups exported or alerts associated with the RPC Broker software.

### **Remote Systems**

#### **Connections**

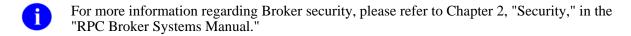
The M server process of the RPC Broker allows connections from client applications. Connection by those client applications is subject to authentication as any normal logon requires. Client applications can use any remote procedure call (RPC) authorized to the application, if the application is authorized to the signed-on user. Data is typically exchanged between clients and the RPC Broker server. Clients can be anywhere on VA's TCP/IP network.

Encryption is used when a user's Access and Verify codes are sent from the client to the server.

In addition, an encryption API is provided for developer use in their own applications to encode and decode messages passed between client and server.

Security with the RPC Broker is a four-part process:

- 1. Client workstations must send a valid connection request to the M Server.
- 2. Users must have valid Access and Verify codes.
- 3. Users must be valid users of a VistA client/server application.
- 4. Any remote procedure call must be registered and valid for the application being executed.



#### **Remote Data Views**

The RPC Broker can be used to facilitate invocation of Remote Procedure Calls on a remote server. Applications can use either XWB DIRECT RPC or XWB REMOTE RPC to pass:

- The desired remote server
- The desired remote RPC
- Any parameters for the remote RPC

The RPC Broker on the local server uses VistA HL7 as a vehicle to pass the remote RPC name and parameters to the remote server. VistA HL7 is used to send any results from the remote server back to the local server. The RPC Broker on the local server then passes the results back to the client application.



WB DIRECT RPC and XWB REMOTE RPC are available only on a controlled subscription basis.

#### **Interfaces**

No *non*-VA products are embedded in or required by the RPC Broker software, other than those provided by the underlying operating systems.

### **Electronic Signatures**

There a re no electronic signatures used within the RPC Broker software.

### **Security Keys**

There are *no* specific security keys exported with the RPC Broker software. However, to bypass security for development purposes, we recommend client/server application developers be assigned the XUPROGMODE security key.

All users assigned the XUPROGMODE security key can do the following:

- Run any VistA client/server application regardless of whether it is in their menu tree or not, and
- Access any RPC without regard to the application context.

### **File Security**

The RPC Broker establishes the following security over its files:

Number	Name	DD	RD	WR	DEL	LAYGO	AUDIT
8994	REMOTE PROCEDURE	@	@	@	@	@	@
8994.1	RPC BROKER SITE PARAMETERS	@	@	@	@	@	@

**Table 13-1: File Security** 

#### **Official Policies**

Modification of any part of the RPC Broker software is strongly discouraged.

Distribution of the RPC Broker software is unrestricted.

The VHA IT Architecture Statement of Direction for FY98 prescribes "Use of Kernel Broker for client-server communication..."

## Glossary

**CLIENT** 

A single term used interchangeably to refer to the user, the workstation, and the portion of the program that runs on the workstation. In an object-oriented environment, a client is a member of a group that uses the services of an unrelated group. If the client is on a local area network (LAN), it can share resources with another computer (server).

**COMPONENT** 

An object-oriented term used to describe the building blocks of GUI applications. A software object that contains data and code. A component may or may not be visible. These components interact with other components on a form to create the GUI user application interface.

**DHCP** 

Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol.

**DLL** 

**D**ynamic Link Library. A DLL allows executable routines to be stored separately as files with a DLL extension. These routines are only loaded when a program calls for them. DLLs provide several advantages:

- 1. DLLs help save on computer memory, since memory is only consumed when a DLL is loaded. They also save disk space. With static libraries, your application absorbs all the library code into your application so the size of your application is greater. Other applications using the same library will also carry this code around. With the DLL, you don't carry the code itself, you have a pointer to the common library. All applications using it will then share one image.
- 2. DLLs ease maintenance tasks. Because the DLL is a separate file, any modifications made to the DLL will not affect the operation of the calling program or any other DLL.
- 3. DLLs help avoid redundant routines. They provide generic functions that can be utilized by a variety of programs.

**GUI** 

Graphical User Interface. A type of display format that enables users to choose commands, initiate programs, and other options by selecting pictorial representations (icons) via a mouse or a keyboard.

**ICON** 

A picture or symbol that graphically represents an object or a concept.

REMOTE PROCEDURE CALL

A remote procedure call (RPC) is essentially M code that may take optional parameters to do some work and then return either a single value or an array back to the client application.

**SERVER** 

The computer where the data and the Business Rules reside. It makes resources available to client workstations on the network. In VistA, it is an entry in the OPTION file (#19). An automated mail protocol that is activated by sending a message to a server at another location with the "S.server" syntax. A server's activity is specified in the OPTION file (#19) and can be the running of a routine or the placement of data into a file.

#### **USER ACCESS**

This term is used to refer to a limited level of access to a computer system that is sufficient for using/operating software, but does not allow programming, modification to data dictionaries, or other operations that require programmer access. Any of VistA 's options can be locked with a security key (e.g., XUPROGMODE, which means that invoking that option requires programmer access).

The user's access level determines the degree of computer use and the types of computer programs available. The Systems Manager assigns the

user an access level.

#### **USER INTERFACE**

The way the software is presented to the user, such as Graphical User Interfaces that display option prompts, help messages, and menu choices. A standard user interface can be achieved by using Borland's Delphi Graphical User Interface to display the various menu option choices, commands, etc.

#### **WINDOW**

An object on the screen (dialogue) that presents information such as a document or message.



For a comprehensive list of commonly used infrastructure- and security-related terms and definitions, please visit the ISS Glossary Web page at the following Web address:

http://vista.med.va.gov/iss/glossary.asp

For a comprehensive list of acronyms, please visit the ISS Acronyms Web site at the following Web address:

http://vista/med/va/gov/iss/acronyms/index.asp

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